



## National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

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# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending October 9, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Late in the week, rainfall covered the greater part of the state. Temperatures dropped from high 70's to the 60's. The great amount of moisture improved soil conditions, but did just the opposite where flooding occurred in certain areas. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, haymaking, harvesting apples and grapes, planting barley and wheat, harvesting corn, harvesting soybeans, finishing the corn silage harvest, as well as alfalfa's fourth cutting.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 9, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
7	33	36	24

**Crops:** Fall plowing is now 65 percent complete, just behind last year's pace. Eighty-six percent of the soybean crop is now dropping leaves and 25 percent of the crop is now harvested, well ahead of last year's pace. Soybean conditions improved slightly from last week as 64 percent of the crop is now rated as either good or excellent. Since surpassing the dented stage, 94 percent of the corn crop has matured and 57 percent of corn for grain is now harvested, well ahead of the 5-year average. The corn silage harvest is winding down and is now 98 percent complete, well ahead of the historic pace. Ninety-five percent of potatoes are now harvested. Eighty-two percent of next year's barley crop is planted, and 44 percent of the crop is already emerged. Both are well ahead of the historic pace. Fifty-eight percent of winter wheat has been planted, and 24 percent of the crop is already emerged. Eighty-nine percent of the 4<sup>th</sup> cutting of alfalfa is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was very good and was rated with the following conditions: 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 32 percent excellent. Sixty-one percent of the apple crop is now harvested. The grape harvest is in full swing as 50 percent of the crop has been harvested.

**Livestock:** Unlike the previous week's dry conditions, rainfall late in the week may have made matters worse with flooding in some areas. However, without sunlight, the pastures were still short on green grass. Pasture conditions rated with the following: 44 percent very poor, 26 percent poor, 22 percent fair and 8 percent good.

**U.S. as of October 2, 2005:** Highlights: The remnants of Hurricane Rita caused widespread but moderate rainfall as the system moved through the middle Mississippi Valley and eastern Corn Belt. Meanwhile, arid conditions along the western Gulf Coast helped dry out fields soaked by Rita during the previous week. In the eastern Delta and adjacent areas of the Southeast, moderate to heavy rain was beneficial for cotton and peanuts, while dry weather in the southern and middle Atlantic Coast States continued to stress crops but was favorable for harvesting. Scattered, light-to-moderate precipitation in the Great Plains generally improved crops conditions. Moderate rain across the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains replenished soil moisture necessary for winter wheat emergence, but more precipitation was needed. Moderate precipitation fell in the southern Rockies, while dry conditions prevailed across California and the Great Basin. Above-normal temperatures across most of the Nation were generally favorable for summer crop development. Corn: Ninety percent of the crop was mature, 18 percentage points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Meanwhile, harvest advanced to 26 percent complete, 3 points ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Harvest was as much as 11 points behind normal in Kansas and Tennessee but was 21 points ahead of normal in Pennsylvania. Soybeans: Acreage dropping leaves advanced to 93 percent, compared with 84 percent last year and 85 percent for the 5-year average. Leaf dropping was ahead of the normal pace in all States, except Kansas, which was 4 points behind normal, and Kentucky, at the normal pace. Growers had harvested 36 percent of their acreage, 3 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Planting advanced to 54 percent complete, 1 point behind last year but 1 point ahead of normal. Acreage emerged, at 25 percent, was 2 points behind last year but the same as the 5-year average.

# Weather Data For Week Ending October 9, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 9, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	81	48	66	9	0.91	2	19.95	-3.83	63	3,060	519	4,793
Franklin	80	45	63	9	0.95	3	23.45	-2.26	101	2,715	375	4,494
Meadville	79	45	63	10	0.11	2	23.56	-2.22	73	2,818	674	4,593
Mercer	81	46	63	10	0.84	3	24.40	-0.11	98	2,808	489	4,566
Springboro	81	41	62	7	0.82	3	26.06	3.05	81	2,569	73	4,285
Warren	81	45	62	9	1.13	2	22.54	-3.39	75	2,673	411	4,432
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	77	41	59	10	1.47	2	25.68	-0.17	84	2,092	464	3,764
Emporium	79	45	61	11	2.41	3	18.69	-6.81	79	2,668	816	4,428
Kane	79	40	59	11	1.22	1	21.64	-4.72	68	1,999	409	3,666
Laporte	72	42	59	6	3.06	2	26.00	2.15	82	2,401	89	4,112
Lock Haven	79	48	63	9	3.04	2	15.86	-7.61	65	3,055	595	4,868
Port Allegany	80	43	60	10	1.97	2	20.62	-3.94	69	2,289	491	3,973
Renovo	80	49	62	8	2.17	2	14.33	-9.14	62	2,999	539	4,811
Ridgway	80	43	60	9	1.48	2	21.67	-3.83	73	2,327	475	4,056
Stevenson Dam	81	48	63	12	1.97	2	18.04	-7.46	72	2,836	984	4,630
Towanda	81	46	62	9	2.46	2	18.70	-1.15	64	2,808	478	4,583
Wellsboro	76	42	58	8	2.09	2	23.96	3.97	63	2,232	492	3,914
Williamsport	78	49	63	8	3.10	2	24.47	1.35	56	3,244	531	5,068
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	78	42	61	9	3.91	2	20.20	-2.30	65	2,502	509	4,242
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	47	64	10	3.22	2	15.76	-6.09	61	3,330	758	5,154
Susquehanna	78	46	62	11	2.86	2	22.31	-1.76	74	2,677	793	4,434
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	83	46	63	10	1.04	3	21.41	-2.81	74	2,850	421	4,673
New Castle	87	47	65	11	0.65	3	24.57	2.29	71	3,115	681	4,935
Slippery Rock	84	46	65	12	0.45	3	22.97	-0.75	74	2,900	718	4,733
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	80	47	64	9	1.30	3	12.55	-8.65	53	2,818	237	4,621
DuBois	80	44	63	10	1.81	3	20.18	-4.19	92	2,634	408	4,411
Lewistown	81	48	64	8	3.54	3	20.00	-2.73	59	3,216	379	5,061
Middletown	80	51	68	11	4.30	3	20.44	-2.20	54	3,785	576	5,670
Prince Gallitzi	80	43	60	8	1.85	2	18.50	-8.80	74	2,455	378	4,209
Selinsgrove	83	49	64	10	3.96	3	21.59	-2.09	60	3,113	468	4,938
State College	78	47	63	9	3.34	3	15.71	-5.70	70	3,031	491	4,865
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	82	48	69	13	9.69	2	28.88	4.18	62	3,414	486	5,273
Lehighton	80	47	65	9	5.75	2	25.22	0.61	63	3,048	228	4,886
Matamoras	78	45	63	9	8.61	2	29.80	4.93	71	2,718	178	4,497
Tobyhanna	79	46	64	14	5.88	3	28.35	1.77	92	3,012	1,293	4,838
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	48	67	12	0.55	3	16.84	-5.66	77	3,427	823	5,296
Derry	83	49	65	11	0.91	3	20.87	-2.57	63	2,927	471	4,753
Myersdale	82	40	60	6	1.53	3	17.55	-8.06	64	2,278	-147	4,009
Mount Pleasant	83	46	63	10	1.29	3	22.65	-4.06	79	2,833	637	4,661
Pittsburgh Intl	84	46	65	10	0.64	3	20.70	-0.41	69	3,256	530	5,107
Rector	81	47	64	11	1.68	3	21.44	-5.27	95	2,852	656	4,678
Waynesburg	86	48	64	11	0.87	3	17.95	-4.98	67	2,972	450	4,810
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	82	47	67	10	5.32	3	25.92	4.43	64	3,336	199	5,199
Everett	82	42	60	5	2.83	3	13.90	-6.82	59	2,356	-222	4,114
Hanover	81	49	67	10	5.53	3	25.99	4.50	57	3,317	180	5,171
Shippensburg	85	49	66	8	3.72	3	23.83	2.90	69	3,370	248	5,221
South Mountain	76	47	64	9	4.78	3	24.38	3.18	59	2,845	271	4,708
York	82	43	67	9	5.44	3	19.77	-3.07	50	3,360	232	5,213
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	80	48	67	11	7.54	2	25.10	1.20	57	3,394	594	5,260
Hamburg	82	48	67	13	5.06	3	23.92	-3.72	57	3,392	849	5,252
Hopewell	80	48	67	8	5.85	3	27.37	2.26	81	3,410	106	5,278
Lancaster	80	50	68	12	5.49	3	25.68	1.56	58	3,501	537	5,365
Neshaminy Falls	80	44	66	10	5.98	2	27.47	-0.17	52	3,232	307	5,073
New Holland	82	50	69	12	10.72	2	28.31	4.19	55	3,582	618	5,450
Philadelphia	82	54	70	11	6.07	2	23.15	-0.26	54	4,007	586	5,914
Philadelphia NE	81	50	70	10	5.00	2	25.21	1.80	56	3,886	465	5,782
Reading	86	50	69	13	5.96	2	22.84	-2.88	58	3,663	757	5,533
Valley Forge Na	82	44	68	9	5.18	2	23.14	-1.97	44	3,264	-40	5,100
Willow Grove	78	50	68	11	6.25	2	23.38	-4.26	43	3,585	660	5,467

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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## Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA)** - Adams County continues to be very dry. Daytime temperatures have been in the 80's and nights in the 60's. Some days were really cloudy this past week but no rain. Corn and Soybeans are being harvested with a nice crop. Some more fields have been prepared for wheat seeding this week after producers have harvested corn for silage and/or grain. Producers are concerned about the dry soil and planting of wheat and if it will germinate. Apples continue to be harvested. According to one Wholesale buyer of fresh fruit the apples are not coloring the way they like due to nighttime temps not getting cool enough. Pumpkins are being harvested for the busy decorating time of Halloween. Some rain is in the forecast for Thursday through Saturday for the county but we will have to wait to see if we actually receive any.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - A good soaker of 4+ inches rain fell on Friday and Sat. The wheat and barley has responded well and so has the new grass seeding. The week was good for corn harvest, soybean harvest, planting the last of the wheat and barley. Producers were busy baling corn fodder, and hauling manure. Apple harvest is winding down and soon will be only canners to harvest.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)** - Four plus inches of rain over the weekend has brought all farming to a halt. Deer really raised havoc in some corn fields this year. One 13 acre field yielded only 87 total bushels, on soil that could easily do 150 bushels per acre. Other fields were down 50% due to deer and some fields were not harvested as the yield would not have paid for the fuel to combine. Very little wheat planted to this point, due to dry soil. Wheat planting should progress rapidly once the topsoil dries out.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - This week was busy harvesting high moisture corn and trying to finish the potato harvest. Yields vary from below normal to above normal.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Good week, we got 2.9 inches of good slow rain. More is needed but this was a help to top soil moisture.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT)** - Rainfall Friday and Saturday totaled 5.25 inches in Upper Dauphin County. There was a great rain for more than 36 hours that produced little runoff. The grass was almost turning green again. Unfortunately this rain followed an extremely dry and hot September and conditions at this time are not very good. Poor establishment of the fall's seeding of forage crops will probably not benefit too greatly from this moisture. It may be too late in the season. Small grain planting will respond. Corn and soybean harvest progressing rapidly. Harvest will be delayed for a few days early this week due to high soil moisture conditions. Gee, it seems odd to say that.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - Soybean and corn yields are exception compared to last year. Harvesting of crops is well ahead of last year. There is plenty of winter feed for most farmers and even some crops to market.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler** - Received about 4 inches of much need rain.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde** - What a contrast, first the driest last seven weeks, then remnants of Tammy dumped 9+ inches of rain the past two days. Now maybe the cover crops can grow and be beneficial before winter. Local grain dealers are full of corn and beans. Farmers were real busy last week with fifth cutting alfalfa, and rolling corn fodder bales. Now it is time for paperwork catch-up time.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - We all knew it would rain again, we just didn't expect the last 2 months of rain in a day. Total were from 5-10+ inches; a good portion of the northwestern part of the county got 8-10 inches. Flooding was a problem in the typical places, but since we were so dry the first half of the rain soaked in pretty good. More rain in the forecast all week a few more inches could fall. Soybeans were being harvested this past week with yields in the 50's. Small grains were planted in the dust in hopes of some rain. I don't expect there will be any field work done this week.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - There was widespread rain on Friday and Saturday with 3-5.5 inches. Prior to the rain, the corn and soybeans continue to dry down at a fast rate, and the wheat and barley have emerged and are growing very nicely. However, there are weeds showing up. The corn silage harvest is complete, because the corn has dried up. The main activities for the week were harvesting corn and soybeans, and sowing wheat.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Very dry week again until the rain arrived on Friday. Good progress continued on soybean and corn harvests. Some nice last cutting hay was also harvested.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 9, 2005**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Fall plowing	65	66	54
Corn, mature	94	91	71
Corn, harvested	57	47	32
Corn silage, harvested	98	95	84
Barley, planted	82	86	67
Barley, emerged	44	46	43
Wheat, planted	58	55	43
Wheat, emerged	24	25	22
Soybeans, harvested	25	14	12
Potatoes, harvested	95	95	86
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	89	74	67
Apples, harvested	61	93	77
Grapes, harvested	50	69	69

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 9, 2005**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn	4	8	23	46	19
Wheat	1	5	34	42	18
Soybeans	2	7	27	49	15
Quality of hay made	1	2	17	48	32
Pasture	44	26	22	8	0

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